AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for transmitting digital data in a form of packets through a transmission medium with error correction, each packet being formatted as a fixed number of data words, each data word having more than 1 bit, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) encoding a sent data packet to form a sent encoded data packet~~, including:~~

~~applying an error detection scheme to the sent data packet to~~ having an "M" eight-bit bytes Protected Packet and an "n" D-parity field ~~add a first error detection field to the packet to form a first Protected Packet~~;

~~applying an error correction scheme to the first Protected Packet to add a first error correction field to said first Protected Packet to form the Sent Encoded Packet;~~

(b) transmitting the sent encoded data packet through the transmission medium, which may introduce errors into the packet during the transmission, the sent encoded data packet~~Sent Encoded Packet~~ being received as a received encoded data packet ~~Received Encoded Packet~~ at the output of the transmission medium, the received encoded data packet ~~Received Encoded Packet including a second Protected Packet and a second error correction field, the second Protected Packet including a second data packet and a second detection field~~ having an "M" eight-bit bytes Protected Packet and an "n" D-parity filed, the Protected Packet comprising the sent data packet of the sent encoded data packet and a data packet of the received encoded data packet;

(c) checking for errors in the data of the Protected Packet of the received encoded data packet, and if an error occurred, applying an error correction scheme for computing an error correction field for said error and inserting said error correction field in the "n" D-parity field;

(d) computing, for said error correction field, an error Syndrome field having "k" error syndrome subfields, and if numbers of bits in the "k" error syndrome subfields are equal, applying the error correction field to correct the error of the sent data packet, otherwise, dropping the sent data packet; and

(e) decoding the received encoded data packet ~~Received Encoded Packet~~ to recover a copy of the sent data packet.

2. (currently amended) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the step (a) ~~of decoding~~ comprises~~: correcting errors, if any, in the Received Encoded Packet to recover a third Protected Packet, the third Protected Packet having a third data packet and a third detection field, the third Protected Packet including fields from the second Protected Packet with the errors being corrected, the third Protected Packet being a copy of the first Protected Packet within the power of the correction scheme~~ encoding the sent data packet to form the sent encoded data packet having the "M" eight-bit bytes Protected Packet, wherein the Protected Packet has data fields having "x" bytes of data, and a cyclic redundancy code (CRC) field having "y" bytes such that " x + y" equals to "M".

3. (currently amended) A method as described in claim ~~2~~1, wherein the step (c) ~~of decoding~~ further comprises~~: determining the integrity of the third Protected Packet; and if the integrity is confirmed, recovering a recovered data packet from the third Protected Packet, the recovered data packet being a copy of the sent data packet within the power of the correction and detection schemes~~ calculating data parity in the "n" D-parity field, and wherein "n" equals to three (3).

4. (original) A method as described in claim 2, wherein the step of correcting errors comprises correcting one or more errors occurred in a single data word of the Sent Encoded Packet only.

5. (currently amended) A method as described in claim ~~3~~1, wherein the step (d) ~~of decoding~~ comprises generating a packet drop indicator signal if the power of the correction scheme is

exceeded and the correction scheme cannot correct errors.

6. (currently amended) A method as described in claim ~~3~~5, wherein the step (d) ~~of decoding~~ comprises generating a packet drop indicator signal if the integrity of the data of said Protected Packet is not confirmed.

7. (currently amended) A method as described in claim 41, wherein the step (d) ~~of applying the error correction scheme to the first Protected Packet to add the first error correction field~~ comprises applying an algebraic function to the data words in the data of said ~~first~~ Protected Packet to generate ~~the first~~ respective error correction fields for the sent data packet of the sent encoded data packet and the data packet of the received encoded data packet.

8. (currently amended) A method as described in claim ~~2~~1, wherein the step ~~of correcting~~(d) comprises ~~the following steps~~:

(k) applying an algebraic function to the data words in the data of said ~~second~~ Protected Packet to generate ~~a third~~ respective error correction fields for the sent data packet of the sent encoded data packet and the data packet of the received encoded data packet;

(l) applying a bitwise exclusive OR function to said generated error correction fields ~~the second and third correction fields~~ to obtain ~~an~~ corresponding error syndrome values~~;~~, and

~~——————————~~if an error occurred, identifying the data word which has the error and obtaining a bit pattern of the error from the error syndrome values; and

(m) correcting the identified word in the data of said ~~second~~ Protected Packet by using the obtained bit pattern to obtain a corrected ~~the third~~ Protected Packet.

9. (original) A method as described in claim 7, wherein the step of applying the algebraic function comprises performing a N-dimensional parity calculation.

10. (original) A method as described in claim 9, wherein the step of applying N-dimensional parity calculation comprises performing a 3D (three dimensional) parity calculation.

11. (currently amended) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the step ~~of applying the error detection scheme~~(c) comprises applying an algebraic function to the data words in the sent data packet of the Protected Packet to generate ~~the first~~ a detection field.

12. (original) A method as described in claim 11, wherein the step of applying the algebraic function comprises applying one or more of the following functions: CRC-16, CRC-32 and a checksum.

13. (currently amended) A method as described in claim ~~3~~7, wherein the step of determining the integrity of the data of said Protected Packet comprises:

(n) applying said error detection scheme to ~~the third~~ the data of the sent data packet of the sent encoded data packet and the data packet of the received encoded data packet of said Protected Packet ~~packet~~ to generate ~~a fourth~~ respective detection fields;

(p) comparing the ~~third and fourth~~ generated detection fields; and

(q) confirming the integrity of the ~~third~~ data of the Protected Packet, if the ~~third and fourth~~ generated detection fields are equal.

14. (original) A method as described in claim 10, wherein the transmitting of data is performed so that each data word is an 8-bit byte, and each data packet has not more than 64 bytes.

15. (original) A method as described in claim 1, wherein transmitting of the sent encoded data packet through the transmission medium comprises transmitting said packet through the transmission link.

16. (original) A method as described in claim 15, wherein transmitting the sent encoded data packet through the transmission link comprises transmitting said packet through the link which provides line coding of the transmitted data.

17. (original) A method as described in claim 16, wherein the transmitting the packet through the line coded link comprises transmitting the packet through the link, which provides 8B/10B line coding.

18. (currently amended) A system for transmitting digital data in a form of packets through a transmission medium with error correction, each packet being formatted as a fixed number of data words, each data word having more than 1 bit, the system comprising:

(1) ~~means~~ an encoder, ~~for~~ encoding a sent data packet to form a sent encoded data packet~~, including:~~

~~means for applying an error detection scheme to the sent data packet to add a first error detection field to the packet to form a first Protected Packet~~ having an "M" eight-bit bytes Protected Packet and an "n" D-parity field;

~~means for applying an error correction scheme to the first Protected Packet to add a first error correction field to said first Protected Packet to form the Sent Encoded Packet;~~

(2) ~~means~~ a transmitter, ~~for~~ transmitting the sent encoded data packet through the transmission medium, which may introduce errors into the packet during the transmission, the sent encoded data packet ~~Sent Encoded Packet~~ being received as a received encoded data packet ~~Received Encoded Packet~~ at the output of the transmission medium, the received encoded data packet ~~Received Encoded Packet including a second Protected Packet and a~~

~~second error correction field, the second Protected Packet including a second data packet and a second detection field; and~~ having an "M" eight-bit bytes Protected Packet and an "n" D-parity filed, the Protected Packet comprising the sent data packet of the sent encoded data packet and a data packet of the received encoded data packet;

(3) a detector, checking for errors in the data of the Protected Packet of the received encoded data packet, and if an error occurred, applying an error correction scheme for computing an error correction field for said error and inserting said error correction field in the "n" D-parity field;

(4) a corrector, computing, for said error correction field, an error Syndrome field having "k" error syndrome subfields, and if numbers of bits in the "k" error syndrome subfields are equal, applying the error correction field to correct the error of the sent data packet, otherwise, dropping the sent data packet; and

(5) ~~means~~ a decoder, ~~for~~ decoding the received encoded data packet ~~Received Encoded Packet~~ to recover a copy of the sent data packet.

19. (currently amended) A system as described in claim 18, wherein the ~~means~~ corrector ~~for decoding~~ comprises : means for correcting errors ~~in the Received Encoded Packet to recover a third Protected Packet, the third Protected Packet having a third data packet and a third detection field, the third Protected Packet including fields from the second Protected Packet with the errors being corrected, the third Protected Packet being a copy of the first Protected Packet within the power of the correction scheme~~ in the data of the Protected Packet of the received encoded data packet.

20. (currently amended) A system as described in claim 19, wherein the ~~means~~ corrector ~~for decoding~~ further comprises: means for ~~determining the integrity of the third Protected Packet; and means for recovering a recovered data packet from the third Protected Packet, the recovered data packet being a copy of the sent data packet within the power of the correction and detection schemes~~ storing the "M" eight-bit bytes Protected Packet in a two-dimensional array of bytes.

21. (original) A system as described in claim 19, wherein the means for correcting errors comprises means for correcting one or more errors occurred in a single data word of the Sent Encoded Packet only.

22. (currently amended) A system as described in claim ~~20~~18, wherein the ~~means~~ corrector ~~for decoding~~ comprises means for generating a packet drop indicator signal if the power of the correction scheme is exceeded and the correction scheme cannot correct errors.

23. (currently amended) A system as described in claim ~~20~~22, wherein the ~~means~~ corrector ~~for decoding~~ further comprises means for generating a packet drop indicator signal if the integrity of the ~~third~~ data of said Protected Packet is not confirmed.

24. (currently amended) A system as described in claim ~~21~~22, wherein the ~~means~~ corrector ~~for applying the error correction scheme to the first Protected Packet to add the first error correction field~~ comprises means for applying an algebraic function to the data words in the ~~first~~ data of said Protected Packet to generate ~~the first~~ respective error correction fields for the sent data packet of the sent encoded data packet and the data packet of the received encoded data packet.

25. (currently amended) A system as described in claim ~~19~~18, wherein the ~~means for correcting~~corrector comprises:

(w) means for applying an algebraic function to the data words in the ~~second~~ data of said Protected Packet to generate ~~a third~~ error correction fields for the sent data

packet of the sent encoded data packet and the data packet of the received encoded data packet, respectively;

(x) means for applying bitwise exclusive OR function to ~~the~~ said ~~second and third~~ generated ~~error~~ correction fields to obtain ~~an~~ corresponding error syndrome values;

(y) means for identifying the data word which has the error, if any, and means for obtaining a bit pattern of the error from the error syndrome values; and

(z) means for correcting the identified word in the ~~second~~ data of said Protected Packet by using the obtained bit pattern to obtain ~~the third~~ a corrected Protected Packet.

26. (original) A system as described in claim 24, wherein the means for applying the algebraic function comprises means for performing a N-dimensional parity calculation.

27. (original) A system as described in claim 26, wherein the means for performing the N-dimensional parity calculation comprises means for performing a 3D (three dimensional) parity calculation.

28. (currently amended) A system as described in claim 18, wherein the ~~means~~ detector ~~for applying the error detection scheme~~ comprises means for applying an algebraic function to the data words in the sent data packet of the Protected Packet to generate ~~the first~~ a detection field.

29. (original) A system as described in claim 28, wherein the means for applying the algebraic function comprises means for applying one or more of the following functions: CRC-16, CRC-32 and a checksum.

30. (currently amended) A system as described in claim ~~20~~25, wherein the means for determining the integrity of the data of said Protected Packet comprises:

(i) means for applying said error detection scheme to ~~the~~ said ~~third~~ data of the sent data packet of the sent encoded data packet and the data packet of the received encoded data packet of said Protected Packet ~~packet~~ to generate ~~a fourth~~ respective detection fields;

(ii) means for comparing the ~~third and fourth~~ generated detection fields; and

(iii) means for confirming the integrity of the ~~third~~ data of the Protected Packet, if the ~~third and fourth~~ generated detection fields are equal.

31. (original) A system as described in claim 27, wherein each data word is an 8-bit byte, and each data packet has not more than 64 bytes.

32. (original) A system as described in claim 18, wherein the transmission medium comprises a transmission link.

33. (original) A system as described in claim 32, wherein the transmission link comprises a line encoder for transforming each "p" bits of said sent encoded data packets into "q" bits, "q" being not less than "p", and a line decoder for transforming each of the received "q" bits into "p" bits of said received encoded data packets.

34. (original) A system as described in claim 33, wherein "p"=8 and "q"=10.

35. (currently amended) An encoder for ~~a~~ the system described in claim 18 ~~transmission system~~ for transmitting digital data in a form of packets through a transmission medium with error correction, comprising:

(6) ~~means for~~ a detector, adding an error detection field to the Protected Packet of the ~~to a~~ sent encoded data packet ~~to form a Protected Packet~~;

(7) ~~means for~~ a corrector, adding ~~an~~ a respective error correction field to the Protected Packet ~~to form an~~ of the ~~sent~~ encoded data packet; and

(8) ~~means for~~ a transmitter, sending the sent encoded data packet to the transmission medium.

36. (original) An encoder as described in claim 35, wherein the means for adding the error detection field comprises means for adding the error detection filed according to one the schemes: CRC-16, CRC-32 and checksum.

37. (original) An encoder as described in claim 35, wherein the means for adding the error correction field comprises means for applying 3D parity calculation to the Protected Packet.

38. (currently amended) A decoder for ~~a transmission~~ the system described in claim 18 for ~~transmitting~~ receiving digital data in a form of packets ~~through~~ from ~~a~~ the transmission medium with error correction, the decoder ~~receiving~~ comprising:

(iv) ~~means~~ a receiver, ~~for~~ receiving ~~a~~ the ~~Received Encoded Packet~~ received encoded data packet from the transmission medium~~;~~;

~~the Received Encoded Packet being the encoded packet encoded by the encoder of claim 35 and transmitted through the transmission medium, Received Encoded Packet including a Protected Packet and an error correction field~~; and

(v) ~~means~~ a corrector, ~~for~~ correcting errors, if any, in the received encoded data packet ~~Received Encoded Packet~~ to recover a corrected Protected Packet which includes fields from the Protected Packet with the errors being corrected; and

~~(vi) means for~~ a detector, determining integrity of the data of the corrected Protected Packet; and

~~means for~~ recovering a corrected data packet from the corrected data of the Protected Packet, the corrected data packet being a copy of the sent data packet.

39. (new) A method as described in claim 2, wherein the CRC field comprises a detection field of the sent encoded data packet and a detection field of the received encoded data packet.

40. (new) A method as described in claim 2, wherein "M"= 66, "x"= 64, and "y"=2.

41. (new) A method as described in claim 3, wherein the "n" D-parity field comprises a correction field of the sent encoded data packet and a correction field of the received encoded data packet.

42. (new) A system as described in claim 18, wherein the detector comprises means for calculating data parity in the "n" D-parity field, and wherein "n" equals to three (3).

43. (new) A system as described in claim 20, wherein the corrector has a random access memory for storing the two-dimensional array of bytes of the "M" eight-bit bytes Protected Packet.